

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SIL-01 LAB-06 AID-20 EB-11

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R 031722Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4148

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTREAL 2270

E. O. 01652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINS CA CI

SUBJ: VISIT OF MRS. ALLENDE TO MONTREAL

REF: MONTREAL 2265

1. ANGLOPHONE AND FRANCOPHONE NEWSPAPERS CARRIED PROMINENT AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE ALLENDE VISIT, WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT. PRESS REPORTS SHE SPOKE AT LENGTH OF HUSBAND'S ACHIEVEMENTS, EVENTS LEADING HIS DEATH, CURRENT CONDITIONS IN CHILE, AND CALLED FOR OVERTHROW PRESENT CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. SHE CONFIRMED PLAN TO VISIT U.S. TO TELL THE PEOPLE OF ALLEGED USG ANTI-ALLENDE ACTIVITIES AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH OTTAWA'S DECISION ADMIT CHILEAN REFUGEES.

2. ATTENDANCE AT THREE-HOUR LABOR SOLIDARITY MEETING IN MONTREAL FORUM ON DECEMBER 1 HIGHLIGHTED VISIT. MEETING, ATTENDED UNOFFICIALLY BY CONGEN OFFICER, DREW SOME 4,500 PERSONS WHO CHEERED WILDLY FOR MRS. ALLENDE AS WELL AS FOR SEVERAL OTHER INDIVIDUALS AND/OR CAUSES. ALTHOUGH MRS. ALLENDE ARRIVED HALF-

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WAY THROUGH MEETING, THERE NO DOUBT SHE WAS STAR OF SHOW. FORUM

WAS DECORATED WITH LARGE PHOTO OF ALLENDE, SEVERAL BANNERS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF CHILE, AND CHILEAN FLAGS. MRS. ALLENDE READ 20 MINUTE SPEECH IN FRENCH IN A CALM CLEAR VOICE. SPOKE OF HER HUSBAND'S STRUGGLE AND DEATH, OWN EXPERIENCES DURING COUP, AND, LENGTHILY, OF OPPRESSION OF WORKERS BY CURRENT GOVERNMENT. MADE UNFAVORABLE REFERENCES TO U.S.A., C.I.A., ITT AND ANACONDA, INCLUDING CHARGES U.S. HAD PRESSURED WORLD BANK AND IMF TO WITHHOLD CREDITS NEEDED TO FEED CHILEAN PEOPLE, AND U.S. NOW AIDING MILITARY REGIME IN POWER. SHE URGED QUEBEC WORKERS TO SUPPORT OPPOSITION TO CURRENT REGIME.

3. ELEVEN OTHER SPEAKERS AT FORUM INCLUDED SPOKESMAN FOR CANADIAN INDIANS, REPRESENTATIVES OF QUEBEC WORKERS INVOLVED IN LABOR DISPUTES SUCH AS 8-MONTH OLD STRIKE AT FIRESTONE, CHILEAN LABOR LEADER IN EXILE HERNAN ORTEGA, AND CESAR CHAVEZ. CANADIAN LABOR REPRESENTED BY MARCEL PEPIN, HEAD OF CONFEDERATION OF NATIONAL TRADE UNIONS (CNTU) AND RECENTLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF WORLD FEDERATION OF LABOR, FERNAND DAOUST, SECRETARY OF QUEBEC FEDERATION OF LABOR, MICHELINE SICOTTE OF QUEBEC TEACHERS CORPORATION, AND MICHEL CHARTRAND, RADICAL MONTREAL CNTU LEADER. LATTER, WHO SEEMED BE IN CHARGE OF LEFTIST-ORIENTED MEETING, SPOKE LAST AND, IN CHARACTERISTIC FASHION, VICIOUSLY ATTACKED BOTH U.S. AND CANADA FOR THEIR ACTIONS IN CHILE. MOST OF OTHER SPEECHES INCLUDED FREQUENT REFERENCES TO ANTI-AMERICANISM, ANTI-IMPERIALISM AND ANTI-FASCISM. HARPER

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